



Issue #14

*Op-Ed: Memory Lane isn't as Nostalgic as
you Remembered*

**Featured
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Anny Schmidt, *Staff Writer*

There has been a rise in coverage in news and online forums about hate and violence against Asian Americans. This may seem new to people who aren't a part of that community, but that is not the case.

Hate, violence and discrimination have always been a part of the Asian American experience.

There are many instances in history that illustrate this, but instead, I am going to share an experience that's more personal. Something that I learned about as I grew up.

This is my mother's story and sometimes mine

My Mom was born in the mid-1960s to a white father and Filipina-Hawaiian mother. She was the youngest of five children and was born in Maryland, a state that considered interracial marriages illegal and did not shy away from showing people that.

This terrified my grandparents as they fled as quickly as they could, pulling their children from state to state and city to city in the hopes of blending in — they didn't.

My mother married my father, a White man from a middle-class family, and had me and my sister.

Their children grew up and were varying degrees of white-passing, a safety net for children that were not welcome anywhere. My mom was not one of the lucky ones, with curly hair and tan skin and almond-shaped eyes. She spent the majority of her childhood being beaten up by classmates and isolated and called "Grasshopper," a term that the neighborhood kids got from a popular Kung Fu show of the time.

She was harassed for being different.

Archives

April 2021

Categories

All

Op-Ed

 RSS Feed

didn't even know I wasn't just white until I was eight.

That would have been post Civil Rights movement, something that we were taught in school that changed society for the better, but my family still kept large, intimidating dogs in their front yard to keep people away. My grandmother was still seen as the help and was asked "Is the woman of the house home?" whenever she answered the door.

They were still scared, told to "Keep quiet" and "Don't say anything." Being white-passing will not protect you from racism and anger.

Not to mention the self-destruction that stems from that internalized racism. My mom told me she felt like she was "freakish." That she was other and was below everyone else because she was constantly reminded that she was not white.

This "othering" haunted her as she grew up, hoping to make herself look whiter by wearing makeup and straightening her hair, refusing to leave the house if it wasn't right. She even wore it while she ran for the track and cross-country team because she never wanted them to consider her the "Asian girl."

This was arguably one of the better ways of coping with this feeling, and things did get better eventually.

That came with the reality of having kids that could look like her. Something that would have been a first because she doesn't look like either of her parents. No part of their face that she could see herself in, no matter how hard she looked.

Neither my sister nor I are dead ringers for our parents, but you can see features that seem to be copy-pasted onto our faces.

I can understand why having that would be healing for my mother. As someone who doesn't belong to just one race,

There's barely room for people who aren't White.

Even as my grandparents watched their children grow up they were terrified that something worse would happen. Something they couldn't walk off as easily as insults and punches. Something I would argue is still around today.

I can still feel hints of racism everywhere and I'm not the person they're aimed at. I'm lucky enough to be told racist jokes and thoughts like I'm going to laugh along with them or agree with them. They're never intended to hurt me, but that almost makes it worse. To know that this is such a common occurrence that it's almost an icebreaker at this point and people don't seem to have a problem with it. I grew up with offhand comments about Asians being bad drivers and kids making themselves "look" Asian. I can't remember any adult ever trying to curb this behavior.

So when people try to deny that there's a problem it comes across as ignorant. It's everywhere. It's on TV and online and in person. I have seen more blatantly Anti-Asian hate since BTS became a mainstream name than I ever saw as a child. It's awful and just more proof that not a lot has changed since my mother was a child.

It just sat and festered until it couldn't be ignored anymore.

I'm not going to "quiet down" like my mother was told to. This is the first step to publicly stand up for what I believe in and bring awareness to what is happening because people deserve to be treated like people.

Eliza Long, Staff Writer

Hello, I'm Eliza. I'm currently living in Tacoma, but I'm from Southern California. I'm interested in learning more about anything and everything (trying to be a well-rounded person). I'll probably be writing about pop culture things like comics or more literary things like poems and novels and authors. It'll just depend.

Thanks for reading!

The End isn't Near for All of Us

4/16/2021 0 Comments

Written by Anny Schmidt, *Staff Writer*

I wake up around the same time each morning, eat breakfast and then hop on Zoom for my classes. My day continues with Zoom classes, work, homework, dinner, followed by more homework or maybe some downtime and then I go to bed. Then it starts all over the next day. Each day feels the same, and many of the days of the pandemic have melded together in my mind. My room no longer feels like just my room. It becomes my office, my homework space, my relaxation area and my classroom. Though I do try to change up where I do my classes, eventually even those locations get old. I only have a few more months of this to go and then I can be free of Zoom classes and school, but how do students in elementary and high school feel?

Let's go back to kindergarten. I spoke to Colorado kindergartener Hayley Schmidt about her experience with school this past year. She explained how she didn't get to finish her ECE (Early Childhood Education) due to the Coronavirus. When asked if she was disappointed about not getting to start this year, her very first year in kindergarten, she said she was disappointed that it was not in person.

"Mostly I had fun times writing and sitting in front of the computer for three hours. We even went on an online school trip to the Grand Canyon," Hayley said. Now Hayley goes to school from 8:15-2:45 each day, in-person. Quite the change from the three hour day she had before. Hayley pointed out that she also no longer has school trips and before she did.

“It kind of hurt my eyes because I had to sit in front of a blue screen. We would get a break in the middle or after each subject,” Sam said. Now Sam has longer school days with more things to do.

When asked about the differences between being in-person this year and being in-person before Covid-19 Sam said “We have all these things to keep us safe and last year we didn’t.”

For these two Colorado elementary students, they still have many more years of school ahead of them. Their problems, however, aren’t so different from ours when it comes to online school. We’ve all had our struggles with learning over Zoom, but some scholars feel that Zoom might benefit some age groups. For instance, teenagers may be able to get more sleep due to the fact that they can literally just roll out of bed and switch on their computer to get to class.

Next I spoke to French Professor Diane Kelley about her experience teaching this semester. “Teaching over Zoom is hard. Professors have had to learn best practices with new technology, struggle to engage students in the unnatural process of Zoom discussions, change our assignments and maybe even our learning objectives, and all the while maintain positive energy for our own and our students’ benefit.” Kelley mentioned that she tries to change locations from where she’s Zooming from depending on what is happening in her household. Despite the crazy twists during these past few semesters learning over Zoom, Kelley said that her students have been very engaged and have come ready to learn.

Even though I am at the end of my education and learning in classrooms, not everyone is. As college students, many of us feel like we’re close to being done with school, but those who still have many years to go and are facing the same struggles we are is important to remember. Those who seek to become educators may still face teaching over Zoom in the future. Even though for some of us graduation is nearing, it’s not the end for everyone.

Davis, CA, and currently resides there. She enjoys various types of writing.

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